

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

ACDA-05 /072 W

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R 081436Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8734

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION UN

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 2804

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK MILITARY BUILD-UP IN AEGEAN

REF: ANKARA 2757

1. SUMMARY. TURKISH PRESS CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON GREEK MILITARY BUILD-UP ON AEGEAN ISLANDS, CLAIMING INCORRECTLY THAT GOT HAS TAKEN ISSUE TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND HAS REDEFINED FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR). NATIONAL RADIO CARRIES STATEMENT BY NEW DEFENSE MINISTER DENYING GOT VIOLATIONS OF GREEK AIRSPACE AND REAFFIRMING TURKISH RIGHT TO OVERFLY AEGEAN. END SUMMARY.

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2. MOST TURKISH NEWSPAPERS TODAY (APRIL 8) GIVE PROMINENT

PLAY TO ALARMIST REPORTS OF GREEK MILITARY BUILD-UP ON ISLANDS OFF TURKISH MAINLAND. TYPICAL ARE CLAIMS BY MASS CIRCULATION HURRIYET THAT 35,000 SOLDIERS AND 100 TANKS HAD BEEN SENT TO RHODES AND BY LIBERAL MILLIYET THAT TOURISM WAS BEING SACRIFICED IN ORDER TO "ARM ISLANDS TO THE TEETH."

3. HURRIYET REPORTS THAT GOT REQUESTED A MEETING OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER MEASURES TO HALT MILITARY BUILD-UP ON DODECANESE ISLANDS WHILE POPULAR GUNAYDIN CLAIMS ISSUE WAS BEING TAKEN TO COUNCIL OF EUROPE. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INFORMS US THAT GOT HAS NO PRESENT INTENTION OF TAKING THIS DISPUTE TO EITHER OF THESE BODIES.

4. HURRIYET AND MILLIYET STATE THAT GOT HAS NOTIFIED GOG THAT IT WILL NOT ACCEPT PRESENT FIR AND HAS ESTABLISHED NEW BOUNDARY OVER AEGEAN WHICH GREEK AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO CROSS WITHOUT PRIOR GOT AUTHORIZATION. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY AND CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES TELL US TURKEY HAS TAKEN NO RPT NO NEW MEASURES IN RESPECT TO FIR. PRESS STORIES ARE APPARENTLY REHASH OF NOTAM ISSUED LAST SUMMER.

5. ANKARA RADIO AT 1300 TODAY CARRIED STATEMENT BY NEW MINISTER OF DEFENSE FERIT MELEN DENYING GREEK CLAIMS OF TURKISH VIOLATIONS OF ITS AIRSPACE AND REAFFIRMING GOT INTENTION TO EXERCISE ITS RIGHT TO OVERFLY AEGEAN. AFTER NOTING THAT GREEK COMPLAINTS OF AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS ON MARCH 20, MARCH 27 AND APRIL 3 HAD BEEN CAREFULLY STUDIED AND DEFINITELY DETERMINED TO BE UNSUBSTANTIATED, MELEN SAID GREEKS WISHED TO

PREVENT THE FLIGHT OF TURKISH AIRCRAFT OVER AEGEAN BECAUSE THEY ARE FORTIFYING AEGEAN ISLANDS IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. TURKISH AIRCRAFT, HE AFFIRMED, WILL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS SANCTIONED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUILDUP, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, AEGEAN ISLANDS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA02804
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750122-0209
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750473/aaaacorm.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ANKARA 2757
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK MILITARY BUILD-UP IN AEGEAN
TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006